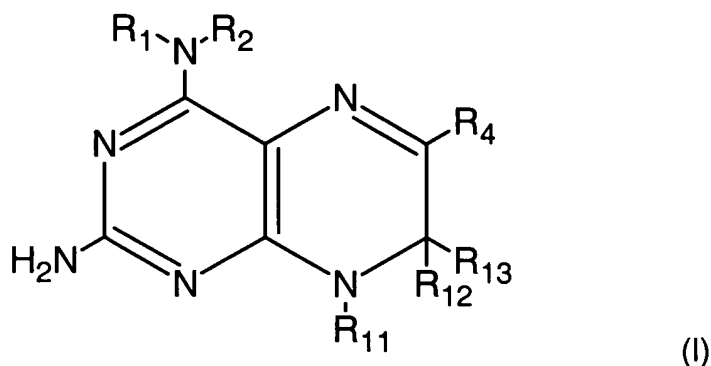


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A compound of formula I, stereoisomeric and tautomeric forms and mixtures thereof in all ratios, and physiologically tolerated salts, hydrates and esters thereof:



wherein:

R₁ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R₂ is chosen from, independently of R₁, hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent, or

R₁ and R₂ may, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a 3-8-membered ring which may optionally contain 0, 1 or 2 further heteroatoms chosen from N, O, and S, and which is optionally substituted by at least one radical,

R₄ is chosen from (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkylaryl, arylalkyl, -CO-O-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -CO-alkyl, and -CO-aryl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R₁₁ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, aryl, -CO-alkyl, and -CO-aryl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

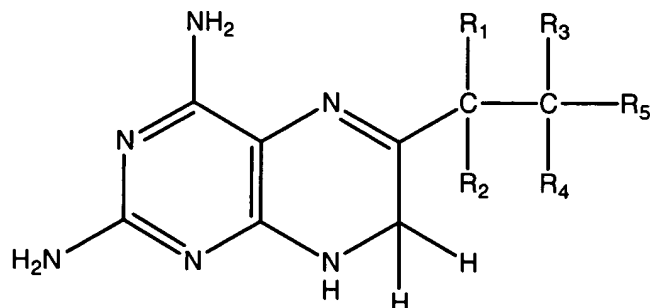
R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, aryl, -O-(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, -O-phenyl, -O-CO-(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, -O-CO-aryl, -NR₈R₉, phenyl, -CO-(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, -CF₃, -CN, -CONR₈R₉, -COOH, -CO-O-(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -F and -Cl,

R₈ is chosen from hydrogen and (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl,

R₉ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, and aryl, and

n is 0, 1 or 2,

with the proviso that compounds of the formula (Ia)



(Ia) are excluded,

wherein in formula (Ia) R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are independently chosen from H and OH, R_5 is chosen from H, CH_3 , CH_2OH , CHO , a lower (C_1 - C_9) alkyl radical, which can be a straight or a branched chain, $(\text{CH}(\text{OH}))_n\text{-Y}$ and $(\text{CH}(\text{OH}))_n\text{-(CH}_2)_m\text{-W}$, wherein Y is hydrogen or a lower alkyl (C_1 - C_9) radical, W is hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, and n and m are independently from each other 1-20.

24. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, (C_1 - C_{20})-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R_4 is chosen from phenyl, (C_1 - C_{20})-alkylphenyl and (C_{12} - C_{20})-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, alkyloxy or halogen, and

R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

25. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R₁ is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, and (C₁-C₅)-O-alkyl,

R₂ is hydrogen,

R₄ is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl and

R₁₁, R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

26. (New) The compound of claim 25, wherein R₁ is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

27. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R₁ is hydrogen,

R₂ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R₄ is chosen from phenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkylphenyl and (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyloxy or halogen,

R₁₁ is (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, which is optionally substituted,

R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, which is optionally substituted.

28. (New) The compound of claim 27, wherein:

R₁ and R₂ are hydrogen,

R₄ is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl

R₁₁ is chosen from methyl and ethyl, and

R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

29. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R₁ is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, and (C₁-C₅)-O-alkyl,

R₂ is hydrogen,

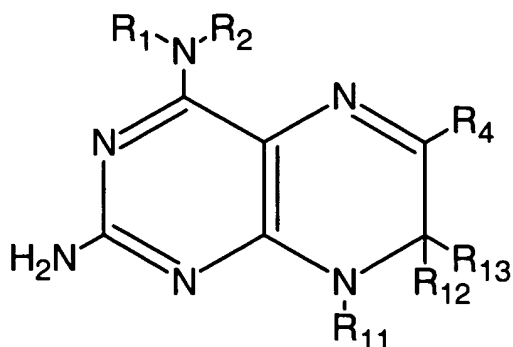
R₄ is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl, and

R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

30. (New) The compound of claim 29, wherein R₁ is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 23, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

32. (New) A method of treating a disorder associated with an increased nitric oxide (NO) level, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically sufficient amount of a compound of formula I, stereoisomeric and tautomeric forms and mixtures thereof in all ratios, and physiologically tolerated salts, hydrates and esters thereof,:



(I)

wherein in formula (I)

R₁ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R₂ is chosen from, independently of R₁, hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R₁ and R₂ may, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a 3-8-membered ring which may optionally contain 0, 1 or 2 further heteroatoms chosen from N, O, and S, and which is optionally substituted by at least one radical,

R₄ is chosen from (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, -CO-O-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -CO-alkyl, and -CO-aryl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R₁₁ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkylaryl, aryl, arylalkyl, -CO-alkyl, -CO-aryl, where the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

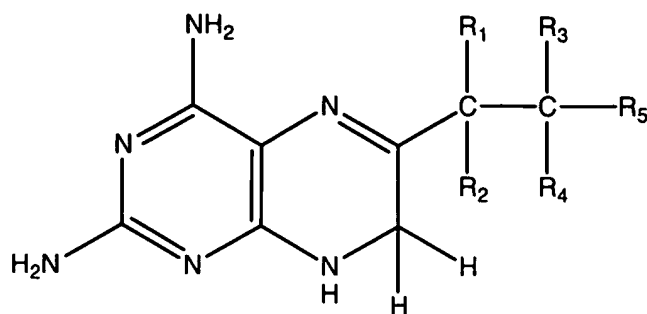
R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, aryl, -O-(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, -O-phenyl, -O-CO-(C₁-C₁₀)-alkyl, -O-CO-aryl, -NR₈R₉, phenyl, -CO-(C₁-C₅)-alkyl, -CF₃, -CN, -CONR₈R₉, -COOH, -CO-O-(C₁-C₅)-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -F and -Cl

R₈ is hydrogen or (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, preferably (C₁-C₅)-alkyl,

R₉ is hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl, preferably (C₁-C₅)-alkyl or aryl, preferably phenyl, and

n is 0, 1 or 2,

with the proviso that compounds of the formula (Ia)



(Ia) are excluded,

wherein in formula (Ia) R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are independently chosen from H and OH, R_5 is chosen from H, CH_3 , CH_2OH , CHO , a lower ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_9$) alkyl radical, which can be a straight or a branched chain, $(\text{CH}(\text{OH}))_n\text{-Y}$, and $(\text{CH}(\text{OH}))_n\text{-(CH}_2)_m\text{-W}$, wherein Y is hydrogen or a lower alkyl ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_9$) radical, W is hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, an n and m are independently from each other 1-20.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$)-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R_4 is chosen from phenyl, ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{20}$)-alkylphenyl and ($\text{C}_{12}\text{-C}_{20}$)-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, alkyloxy or halogen, and

R_{11} , R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$)-alkyl, and ($\text{C}_1\text{-C}_5$)-O-alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen,

R₄ is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl and

R₁₁, R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein in the compound of formula (I) R₁ is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R₁ is hydrogen,

R₂ is chosen from hydrogen, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R₄ is chosen from phenyl, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkylphenyl and (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, (C₁-C₂₀)-alkyloxy or halogen,

R₁₁ is (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, which is optionally substituted,

R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, which is optionally substituted.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R₁ and R₂ are hydrogen,

R₄ is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl

R₁₁, is chosen from methyl and ethyl, and

R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R₁ is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with (C₁-C₅)-alkyl, and (C₁-C₅)-O-alkyl,

R₂ is hydrogen,

R₄ is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl and

R₁₂ and R₁₃ are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein in compound of formula (I) R₁ is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

40. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said disorder associated with an increased NO level is chosen from:

- (a) disorders characterized by pathological blood pressure decreases;
- (b) inflammatory disorders;
- (c) insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus;
- (d) transplant rejection reactions;
- (e) cardiovascular disorders;
- (f) disorders of the nervous system/central nervous system;
- (g) disorders of the kidney.

41. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is a mammal.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the subject is a human.